

GENERAL ACCOUNT AND CLOSED SESSION MINUTES
Monday, August 4, 2003

At its meeting of Monday, August 4, 2003, at 10:40 a.m., upon a motion by Commissioner Hunsucker, and unanimously carried, the Board recessed into Closed Session, in accordance with NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (3) To consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body; and (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

Present were Chair Katherine W. Barnes, Vice Chairman Dan A. Hunsucker, and Commissioners Glenn E. Barger, Barbara G. Beatty, and Lynn M. Lail.

Also present were County Manager/Deputy Clerk J. Thomas Lundy, Assistant County Manager Mick W. Berry, County Attorney Robert Oren Eades, Staff Attorney Debra Bechtel, Staff Attorney Jerry Hess, and County Clerk Thelda B. Rhoney.

Planning Director Jacky Eubanks and Economic Development Corporation President Scott Millar were invited to attend the Closed Session.

NCGS 143-318.11 (a) (4) To discuss matters relating to the location or expansion of industries or other businesses in the area served by the public body.

Duke Power Company - Marshall Steam Plant

Mr. Millar said Duke Power Company will be complying with the Clean Smoke Stack Bill to reduce air pollution. This is a Duke Power matter but he wanted to inform the Board of the project.

1. Scrubber Project. Duke will upgrade the air handling systems at Plant Marshall, installing systems utilizing limestone scrubbers. The upgrades are anticipated to cost \$400 million, will take 24-30 months to complete and will employ 150-200 workers during construction. Applications for permitting for the systems have begun and the Catawba County Planning Department has been contacted regarding the potential development of a gypsum landfill on the Marshall Steam Plant property to handle the processed limestone byproduct, should alternative uses not be found for the material. Resulting changes in the plant are the creation of one large stack that is 140 feet taller than the current stacks. The new stack will discharge water vapor and the air will be significantly cleaner than at present. The law requires that by 2009, NOx be reduced by 77 percent and SOx be reduced by 49 percent, then 73 percent by 2013. The project will have many beneficial uses, particularly the cleaner air and reduced soot. The main challenge is the increased height/visibility of the stack. Duke Power, in the near future, is planning a community informational campaign on the benefits of the project. This project is permitted by the State and results in cleaner air.

Mr. Millar left the closed session.

At 12:22 p.m., the Board returned to regular session.

Katherine W. Barnes, Chair

Thelda B. Rhoney, County Clerk